



May 2025

Aloha e nā ‘ohana o ka Papa 2025,

E ho‘omaika‘i iā ‘oukou! We look forward to celebrating our Kapālama papa poni as they complete this major milestone. Mahalo for your patience while we worked together to refine the plans for this year's Senior Activities.

We are grateful for your partnership and appreciate the opportunity to work together to create a memorable graduation experience in a safe and responsible way.

To help our graduates, mākuā, and ‘ohana prepare for these upcoming events and activities, we’re sharing important information below. Please read carefully to ensure an unforgettable and meaningful celebration.

REHEARSAL | Friday, May 23, 2025 | Kekūhaupi‘o Gym (MANDATORY)

- 8:00 am Seniors report to Kekūhaupi‘o Gym
Seniors find assigned seats
(Seniors must be dressed in their school uniform and covered shoes)
- 8:15 am Opening pule & announcements, warm-ups and sound check
- 8:30 am Baccalaureate Program Rehearsal
- 9:35 am Break, reset for Commencement Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Commencement Rehearsal
- 12:45 pm Pau/Name-check with announcers

****Seniors MUST provide their own transportation home. There are no terminal or country buses available.***

Seniors must be dressed in their school uniform and covered shoes.

Parking will be available for seniors on campus in Hale Ho‘okū Ka‘a on Floors 5, 6, and 7 ONLY. No parking pass is necessary for rehearsal day, Friday, May 23, 2025.

BACCALAUREATE | Saturday, May 24, 2025 Kekūhaupi‘o Gym (MANDATORY)

- 7:00 am Seniors and their guests may begin to enter campus
- 8:00 am Seniors report to Kekūhaupi‘o Gym #2
(Seniors must arrive dressed in Special Events Attire)
- 8:15 am Kekūhaupi‘o Main Gym doors open (ticket required for entry)
- 9:00 am Baccalaureate Service begins
- 10:00 am Senior Tea (see enclosed for invitation)

Seniors must arrive dressed in Special Events Attire (please see enclosed for more information)

The Baccalaureate service will be held this year at Kekūhaupi‘o Gym. A ticket is required for entry and each graduate will receive two (2) tickets for members of their family to attend the service. All seating is on a first come, first served basis. Parking is available for our families at Hale Ho‘okū Ka‘a. This year, we are honored to have as our speaker, KS alumnus and former kahu of Bishop Memorial Chapel, Kahu Kordell Kekoa. The Baccalaureate Service will be livestreamed on the Commencement website.

SENIOR TEA | Saturday, May 24, 2025 Bishop Memorial Chapel (Optional)

- 10:00 am-12:30 pm Senior Tea

Senior Tea at Bishop Memorial Chapel will immediately follow the Baccalaureate Service. Graduates may be accompanied by two (2) guests. Shuttle service will be provided from Kekūhaupi‘o Gym to Senior Tea. Students may use the Kekūhaupi‘o restrooms to change into aloha attire for the Senior Tea.

COMMENCEMENT | Sunday, May 25, 2025 | Neal S. Blaisdell Arena (MANDATORY)

- 2:00 pm Seniors report to Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
Kīhei Tying in Exhibition Hall (Haumāna & KS Kumu/Staff only)
- 3:00 pm Arena Doors Open
- Per NBC policy, all bags will be checked upon entry. Please review the enclosed NBC guidelines for more information. Mahalo for your cooperation and understanding.
- 4:00 pm Commencement Ceremony Begins

Seniors must arrive dressed in Special Events Attire (please see enclosed for more information) Parents please be sure your child eats a hearty lunch and is well hydrated prior to their call time at 2:00 pm.

At Kamehameha Schools, Commencement ceremonies are conducted with dignity and pride. They exemplify our Hawaiian ancestral value of pono -- to be correct and proper. In keeping with this tradition, we ask you to remind your graduate, as well as your family and friends, about appropriate behavior and demeanor during commencement exercises. We believe that catcalling, loud cheering, yelling, and signs detract from the recognition of each student being honored on stage. We ask your support in maintaining the dignity of the ceremonies.

Please respect the importance of this occasion by cooperating with the school and the Neal S. Blaisdell Center guidelines. For the safety and security of all guests and graduates, please follow the instructions of school personnel, NBC staff, KSK security and HPD, before, during, and after commencement.

Remain seated throughout the ceremony. Please refrain from approaching the stage or graduate at any time. Professional photos will be taken of each graduate by Ace Portrait Studio, Inc. during the ceremony and will be available for purchase.

We are enclosing 12 tickets for the Commencement Ceremony. Each graduate will receive four (4) Arena Floor tickets and eight (8) General Admission tickets for upper-level seating. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. There are no extra tickets and students are encouraged to check with one another if any additional tickets are available. ***Commencement Ceremony tickets are required for guests to attend the Commencement Ceremony in the Blaisdell Arena. Tickets will be torn in half at the door and ushers will return one half to the guest for re-entry.***

Tickets for lei greeting are NOT needed for entry into the lei greeting areas.

IMPORTANT Neal S. Blaisdell Center Management Reminders:

- Please drive carefully and observe traffic regulations in the Blaisdell parking lot.
- Tailgating is not permitted before or after the event.
- **No outside food and beverages- including water bottles.**
- Bag checks will be conducted upon entry into our event.
- Please refer to the enclosed guidelines from the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Commencement Guidelines
- Storing signage or balloons of any sort in the Exhibition Hall prior to or during the ceremony is prohibited and will be removed

**LEI GREETING | Sunday, May 25, 2025 | Neal S. Blaisdell Center
Exhibition Hall, Concert Hall Parking Lot & Lawn Area**

6:30 pm (approx.)	Lei Greeting begins
7:15 pm	Suggested arrival time for guests ONLY attending Lei Greeting
8:30 pm	Lei Greeting ends

Graduate Locations:

Letters A - J	Concert Hall Parking Lot and Lawn
Letters K - Z	Exhibition Hall

IMPORTANT Lei Greeting Plan:

- **NO tickets are required for entry into the Lei Greeting.**
- There are separate guidelines for what is allowed inside the Exhibition Hall and what is allowed in the exterior Lei Greeting areas.
 - Refer to the “**Neal S. Blaisdell Center Commencement Guidelines**” Mahalo for your cooperation and compliance.
- Be aware that certain doors are designated for entrance or exit only in the Exhibition Hall.
- Arena floor ticketed guests will be allowed into the Exhibition Hall first.
- Arena upper-level ticketed guests will be allowed into the Exhibition Hall second.
- Guests only attending the lei greeting may enter via the Exhibition Hall Main Concourse, East Concourse, and Concert Hall Parking Lot doorway - and will enter AFTER all guests from the arena have entered the Exhibition Hall. Mahalo for your patience. Entrance into the Exhibition Hall will require a bag check.
- There may be times when the Exhibition Hall entrance lines are paused if the Exhibition Hall is at capacity. We ask ‘ohana for their patience and understanding as we ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all.

- NOTE: While we embrace all cultural forms of celebration, we kindly ask ‘ohana to limit their congratulations for their graduate to lei only. No musical instruments or elaborate cultural displays allowed.

We want all families to support their graduate in an orderly manner without compromising safety. Please know that should a rule be violated, guest(s) may be escorted out of the arena, exhibition hall, and/or off the premises.

Lastly, enclosed we have included additional information and guidelines for your review to help you and your ‘ohana to prepare for the culminating events. Information on our Commencement website and live streaming opportunities can be found at <https://bit.ly/kskpapa2025>.

For any questions, please contact Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Los Baños at khsspecialevents@ksbe.edu. We look forward, as I am sure you must, to this exciting period in the lives of the members of the Class of 2025.

I mua!



Kealoha Ho‘omana-Heffernan
Po‘o Kumu Kūikawā- Kula Ki‘eki‘e
Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School

Enclosures:

- Senior Calendar of Year-End Activities
- Special Events Attire for Baccalaureate and Commencement
- Information Regarding “Kalamakūali‘i—The Royal Lamp” Kīhei
- Neal S. Blaisdell Center Commencement Guidelines
- Lei Greeting Map
- Ace Portrait Studio Flyer
- Senior Tea Invitation (will be included in mail-out)
- Baccalaureate Tickets (2), Commencement Tickets (12) - Tickets will be mailed home

SENIOR CALENDAR OF YEAR-END ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, May 20 -Final Exams

7:55 am - 9:25 am	Period 1
9:45 am - 11:15 am	Period 3
9:44 am - 12:40 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Period 5

Wednesday, May 21 – Final Exams & Check-Out

7:55 am - 9:25 am	Period 2
9:45 am - 11:15 am	Period 4
9:44 am - 12:40 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Period 6
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Commencement Rehearsal- Auditorium (MANDATORY)
11:30 am - 2:30 pm	Senior Check-Out- Midkiff

Thursday, May 22 – Final Exams & Check-Out

7:55 am - 9:25 am	Period 7
9:45 am - 11:15 am	Period 8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Lunch
10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Senior Check-Out- Midkiff

Friday, May 23 - Baccalaureate & Commencement Rehearsal

8:00 am	Seniors report to Kekūhaupi‘o Gym
12:45 pm	Seniors dismissed

Seniors MUST be dressed in school uniform attire (including covered shoes).

Seniors are responsible for their own transportation to and from campus. Parking will be available at Hale Ho‘okū Ka‘a- Floors 5, 6, 7 (No parking pass required)

-OVER-

Saturday, May 24 - Baccalaureate & Senior Tea

- 8:00 am Seniors report to Kekūhaupi‘o Gym #2
(Seniors must arrive dressed in Special Events Attire)
- 8:15 am Kekūhaupi‘o Main Gym doors open (ticket required for entry)
- 9:00 am Baccalaureate Service
- 10:00 am Senior Tea- Bishop Memorial Chapel

Sunday, May 26 - Commencement

- 2:00pm Seniors report to Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
Kīhei Tying in Exhibition Hall (Haumāna & KS Kumu/Staff only)
- 3:00pm Arena Doors Open (ticket required for entry)
- Per NBC policy, all bags will be checked upon entry. Please review the enclosed NBC Commencement guidelines for more information. Mahalo for your cooperation and understanding.
- 4:00pm Commencement Ceremony
- 6:30 pm Lei Greeting begins (approx.)
- 7:15 pm Suggested arrival time for guests ONLY attending Lei Greeting
- 8:30 pm Lei Greeting ends

Graduate Locations:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Last Names A - J | Concert Hall Parking Lot and Lawn |
| Last Names K - Z | Exhibition Hall |

**SPECIAL EVENTS ATTIRE FOR
BACCALAUREATE AND COMMENCEMENT**

Wāhine: Uniform Special Events white mu‘umu‘u purchased from Lands’ End a long white or beige slip, fully enclosed white flats or pumps.

Students must wear kīhei and blue silk lei for Commencement (kīhei and lei will be given at check-in at NBC).

Kāne: Long sleeved white Special Events dress shirt, blue sash, white dress pants which were purchased from Lands’ End, white belt, white dress shoes (no athletic or canvas shoes), full-length white socks. Blue sash is needed for Baccalaureate Service ONLY.

Students must wear kīhei and blue silk lei for Commencement (kīhei and lei will be given at check-in at NBC).

Note: Ribbons, flowers lei, any hair decorations and jewelry except for watches and class rings are not to be worn for both Baccalaureate and Commencement events. Prohibited items will be confiscated upon student check-in.

LAND’S END STORE:

Address

Nā Lama Kukui
#118 560 Nimitz Highway
HI 96817
Phone: (808)-585-7441

Hours

Tuesday Friday: 10 am – 5 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm Honolulu,
Sunday- Monday: CLOSED

KALAMAKŪALI'I

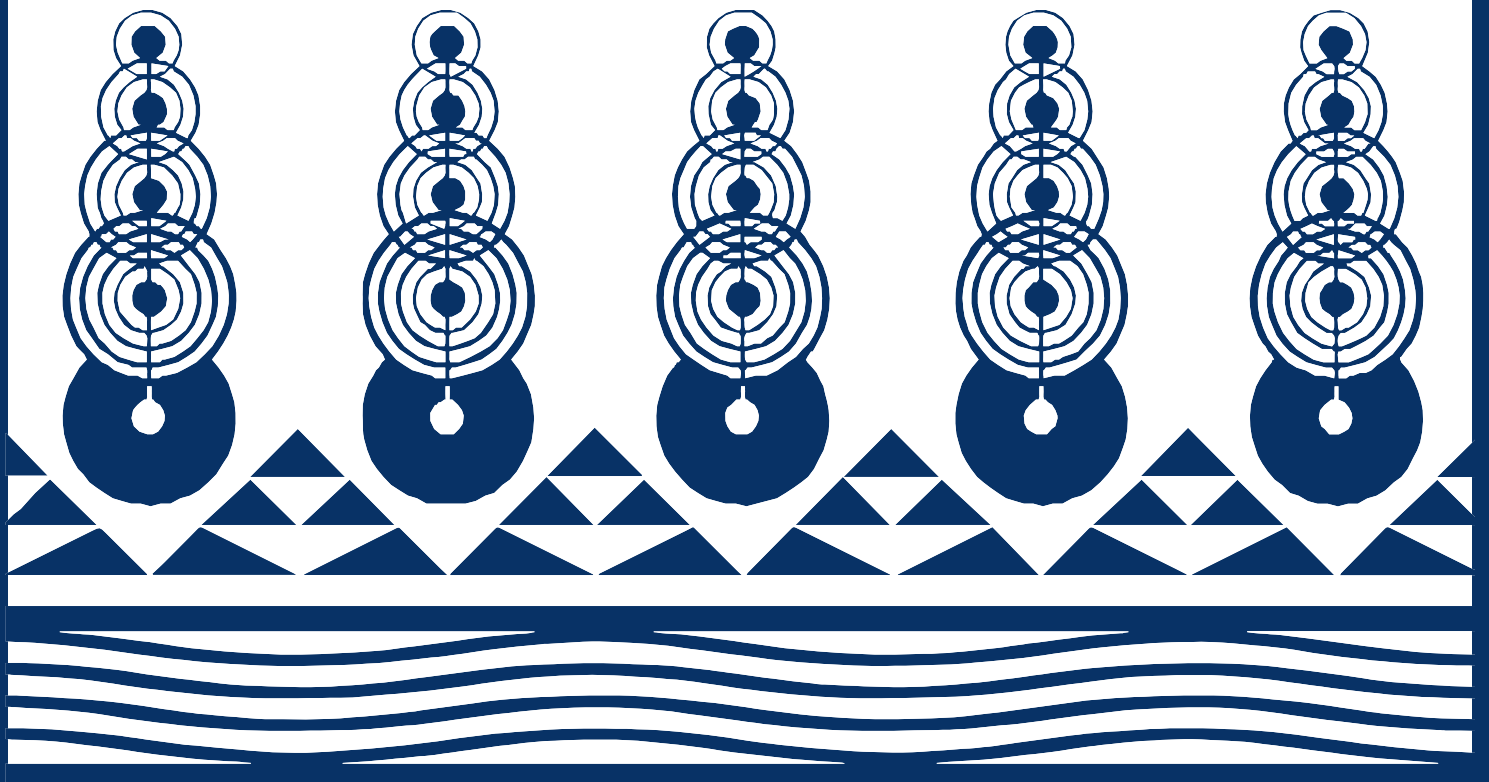
THE ROYALLAMP

Kamehameha Schools Kapālama marks this special occasion with a kīhei, a traditional Hawaiian garment, gifted to each graduating senior. Having successfully completed our graduation requirements, they have earned the privilege and honor of receiving this special kīhei as a symbol of their passage into the next phase of their lives.

“Kalamakūali'i—The Royal Lamp” was designed by Visual Arts teacher Carl Pao in collaboration with a committee of other high school staff members with expertise in Hawaiian language and culture. The symbols in the design have significance for our school and its location on the heights of Kapālama, the piko (center) of our graduates' formal education over the past few years.

The lamakū, or kukui nut lamp, symbolizes enlightenment or the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom during our graduates' time with us. The four kukui represent each grade level of the high school, joined by a nī'au (coconut midrib) which is anchored in a pōhaku (stone). What we see of the pōhaku is a shape that resembles an 'ahu'ula (shoulder-length feather cloak) that represents Pauahi, our Founder and Benefactress, whose generosity created tremendous educational opportunities for our graduates. The brilliance of the light has grown stronger as they have passed from one grade to the next. We hope that our graduates will continue to add kukui, gaining greater enlightenment in their lives beyond Kamehameha, but always be firmly connected to the piko of Kapālama.

The wavy lines at the bottom of the design represent wai (water), a source of life and knowledge, and symbolize the underground waterway that once flowed through lava tubes and connected Keanakamanō (The Cave of the Shark) Valley at our campus' main gate with Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor), Oceania and the rest of the world. Our mo'olelo (stories) say that the Hawaiian god Kamohoali'i traveled this waterway in his shark form to Kapālama. The chevron shapes represent a shark's teeth and also the island of O'ahu.



NEAL S. BLAISDELL CENTER
COMMENCEMENT GUIDELINES

Blaisdell Center would like to extend our congratulations to the class of 2025. Commencement is a milestone for graduates, their families and their friends. We ask that all graduates and guests respect the importance of this occasion by cooperating with the schools and the graduation rules of the Blaisdell Center.

For the safety and security of all guests and graduates, please follow the instructions of the venue personnel and security staff before, during and after commencement. If the Exhibition Hall has reached capacity, we will ask guests to wait until others have left before allowing more family and friends to enter.

Neal S. Blaisdell Center Management Reminders:

- Please drive carefully and observe traffic regulations in the Blaisdell parking lot.
- No tailgating/picnicking in the parking structure, grass areas or on walkways.
- **No outside food and beverages- including water bottles.**
- Bag checks will be conducted upon entry into the Arena and Exhibition Hall.
- Storing signage or balloons of any sort in the Exhibition Hall prior to or during the ceremony is prohibited and will be removed
- NOTE: While we embrace all cultural forms of celebration, we kindly ask 'ohana to limit their congratulations for their graduate to lei only (no musical instruments or elaborate cultural displays allowed).

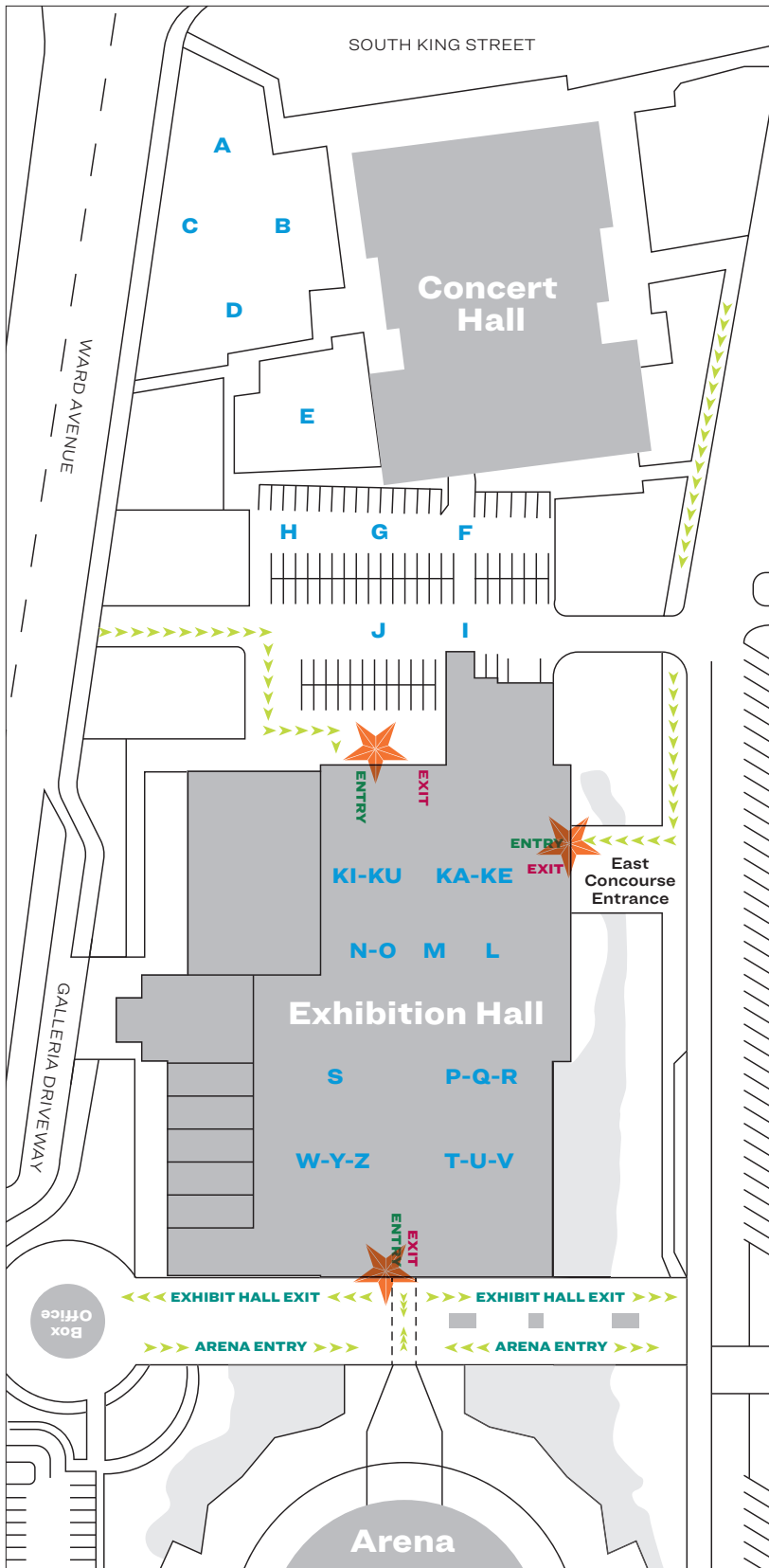
Arena and Exhibition Hall Lei Greeting Area

- All packages are subject to search. Large bags may be denied entry if they won't fit or contain unsuitable items.
- No intoxicants- alcohol, illegal drugs
- No aisles can be obstructed.
- All packages, gifts, lei, posters, etc. must fit on lap or under the seat.
- Size allowance for signs and banners is 3ft x4 ft. Photos and wording should be appropriate and are subject to review. Signs should fit in your lap and cannot obstruct walkway/aisles
- No sticks, pipes, rods – posters cannot be mounted for safety reasons.
- No strollers or wagons inside the seating areas – strollers must be checked with the usher staff.
- No balloons
- No tripods
- No drones
- No laser pointers
- No noisemakers or air horns
- No silly string, confetti or confetti cannons
- No outside beverages - including water bottles

Concert Hall Parking Lot & 'Ewa Lawn Lei Greeting Area

- No intoxicants- alcohol, illegal drugs
- No Boom boxes, speakers or radios
- No generators or any equipment requiring fuel
- No tents or canopies
- No barbecuing or cooking of any kind
- No picnicking
- No staking items into the ground
- No nailing or attaching items to trees
- No littering of any kind
- No silly string, confetti or confetti cannons
- No drones
- No laser pointers
- Please be mindful of barriers setup for your safety and remain within barriers.

MEET THE GRADUATES & LEI GREETING PLAN



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NO tickets are required for entry into the Lei Greeting.

There are separate guidelines for what is allowed inside the Exhibition Hall and what is allowed in the exterior Lei Greeting areas. Mahalo for your cooperation and compliance.



Scan the QR Code for further details and the **“Neal S. Blaisdell Center Commencement Guidelines”**

Be aware that certain doors are designated for entrance or exit only in the Exhibition Hall.

Arena floor ticketed guests will be allowed into the Exhibition Hall first.

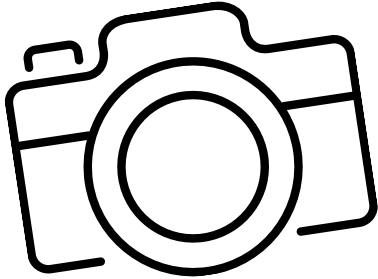
Arena upper-level ticketed guests will be allowed into the Exhibition Hall second.

Guests only attending the lei greeting may enter via the Exhibition Hall Main Concourse, East Concourse, and Concert Hall Parking Lot doorway - and will enter **AFTER** all guests from the arena have entered the Exhibition Hall. Mahalo for your patience. Entrance into the Exhibition Hall will require a bag check.

There may be times when the Exhibition Hall entrance lines are paused if the Exhibition Hall is at capacity. We ask ‘ohana for their patience and understanding as we ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all.

NOTE: While we embrace all cultural forms of celebration, we kindly ask ‘ohana to limit their congratulations for their graduate to lei only. No musical instruments or elaborate cultural displays allowed.

2025 Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Commencement Photo Information



Exciting news! Your picture day photos
will be available online after graduation.
The code below will give you access to
the gallery.

How to view and purchase photos

Text the access code:

PGME77255

to

90738

or visit:

<https://my.photoday.com/g/PGME77255>

Photos by Ace Portrait Studio

(808)591-9220

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Honolulu, HI 96814